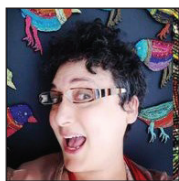




LOL Stations musical, p.16



Artful Afternoon, p.16

School Funding Halted Amid MOU, County Council Pressures

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) have been proudly touting the Public Private Partnership (or P3) they are using to build new schools rapidly and utilizing private funds as a model for the nation. The Blueprint Schools Phase One wrapped up this month with ribbon cuttings for six new schools. The approval to proceed to commercial and financial closing for Phase Two was on the agenda for the September Board of Education meeting last week to move ahead with building a further eight. However, that agenda item failed to gather the necessary majority, with six "ayes," four "nays" and two abstentions. Among those voting "no" was Jonathan Briggs, school board representative for District 2, including Greenbelt,

whose district would benefit from the planned new building for Springhill Lake Elementary.

Some have expressed concern that this vote shows outside influence on board members, including from labor unions and Prince George's County Council.

Unions and Parents Comment

During the public comment period, several representatives of unions spoke about the need for a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for the building of the new schools. Meanwhile, parents pleaded for the pending new schools to be built as planned. One parent, Timothy Meyer, said, "Phase Two delivers new schools for districts one, two, three, four, five and nine. These big wins are right in front of you, ready

See **SCHOOLS**, page 8

After 85 Years, "Old" Theatre Renamed Greenbelt Cinema

by Melissa Sites

The heavy rain of Tropical Storm Ophelia did nothing to discourage Greenbelt's glitterati from gathering to celebrate 85 years of the Old Greenbelt Theatre. With popcorn treats, Shirley Temples flowing and live music, the crowd was murmuring and excited as they awaited the evening's entertainment and a Grand Announcement: a name change, from Old Greenbelt Theatre to Greenbelt Cinema, with the tagline, Where Movies and Community Meet. The new logo, in teal and purple, combines an image of both projector and camera, while the two circles can also be seen as two friends sitting side by side. The new branding features the streamlined modern aesthetic and illustrates the Cinema's goals of being inclusive, diverse, egalitarian, democratic and open to all.

A cheerful crowd of more than 250 people was welcomed to the evening by Executive Director Caitlin McGrath, who explained



PHOTO BY IAN BLACKWELL ROGERS

Greenbelt Cinema Executive Director Caitlin McGrath introduces staff members, from left, Adam Campanile, Annelise Ontiveros, Abby Jorgensen, Kaliya Young, Edina Patterson Cook, Lian Agwumezie, Operations Manager and Rental Coordinator Lucy Cortez, Education and Outreach Coordinator Lauren Rankel, Office Manager Amy Knesel and Director of Operations Stephenie Arcido.

that the name change was the result of a year-long marketing study driven by the desire to reach more people who would love to come to the cinema. The

word "old" was found to stir up negative connotations in some, while others thought it tied the

See **THEATRE**, page 6

Kalen Wright: News Review Carrier, Podcaster, Dancer, Ready for College

by Lois Rosado

Kalen J. Wright, a Greenbelt News Review paper carrier since the sixth grade, wears multiple hats. He is a scholar, athlete, entrepreneur, an award-winning film/podcast producer, a nationally recognized hip-hop dancer and a Taekwondo Black Belt specialist.

Wright is a senior at Northwestern High School (NHS) in Hyattsville, where he attends the Jim Henson Performing Arts program and has always maintained a GPA of 3.7 to 4.0. He is on the NHS varsity track team and competes in cross country, 800-meter, 1600-meter and 3200-meter races. He began running for NHS in the 10th grade, and by the end of the year received the Most Improved Athlete Award. Wright has earned a Black Belt in Taekwondo, competing in this sport since he was in second grade.

His experiences with Taekwondo have taught Wright that being uncomfortable or failing

can be a catalyst to greater learning and improvement in skills. For example, he used to be afraid of spiders and to overcome that fear he learned everything he could about them. He said: "If you know what it is, and how it works, it's hard to be afraid of it." During his time competing in Taekwondo, he fought individuals older and bigger than he, helping him gain greater confidence in his skills and in his ability to overcome any challenge.

Wright loves hip-hop dancing. He placed fourth in a solo national competition in July at the Virginia Beach Festival. He currently studies dance at Making Moves Dance Collective in Beltsville.

To enhance his chances for getting into college, Wright is a fourth-year scholar with LEEP to College Foundation, Inc. (L2C). This college preparatory program

helps under-represented youth to improve high school graduation rates by visiting various colleges, offering SAT preparation and fostering engagement in leadership and community development training. They also offer workshops in mental health, college readiness and financial

See **WRIGHT**, page 13



PHOTO COURTESY ROBERT WRIGHT

Kalen Wright dances at a StarQuest competition.

What Goes On

Monday, October 2
No Council Meeting

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

Election 2023

Two More Incumbents, Silke Pope And Emmett Jordan, Join the Fray

Two incumbents, Silke Pope and Emmett Jordan, have filed for Greenbelt City Council. Their nomination forms have been certified by City Clerk Bonita Anderson. Candidate biographies are prepared by the candidates and published as they are received by the paper. They join candidates Ric Gordon, Matthew Inzeo, James Whipple, Jenni Pompei, Danielle McKinney, Moses Sekatawa and Kristen Weaver.

Silke Pope

Silke Pope served on the Public Safety Advisory Committee for nine years until election to council in 2009. During her tenure leading PSAC, the city saw improvements in safety including installation of security cameras at the Spellman Overpass and emergency call boxes on Metro Drive and in Franklin Park. Pope is council liaison to both PSAC and the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and she continues to be a strong supporter of public safety and quality of life initiatives.

Pope has served on state and national committees including the National League of Cities (NLC) Public Safety and Crime

See **POPE**, page 7



PHOTO COURTESY SILKE POPE

Silke Pope

Emmett V. Jordan

Emmett V. Jordan, the incumbent mayor, has been a Greenbelt resident for 23 years. He relocated to the area to work with the University of Maryland in 1998. Attracted by the city's convenient location and abundant recreational amenities, he moved to the Greenbriar Condominiums.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, he studied liberal arts and music at Morehouse College and at the University of Cincinnati, where he earned a bachelor's degree in urban administration. He furthered his education with additional graduate coursework in public administration

See **JORDAN**, page 7

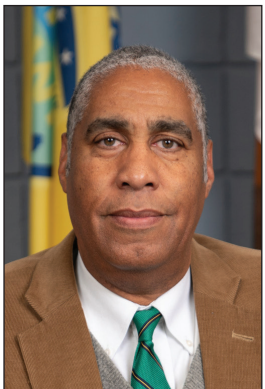


PHOTO BY ERIC KRUSZEWSKI

Emmett V. Jordan

Letters to the Editor

A Tribute to J Davis

Just J – as she likes to be called. We are amazed at her accomplishments during her 30 years on the Greenbelt City Council.

J demonstrated her leadership capabilities with 30 years of consensus building. In the major issues over those years dealing with development, the environment, traffic, law enforcement, public safety, bike trails, recycling options, budgets, conservation of our green belt, J has led the way in preserving and expanding on our physical, economic and cultural community values.

The city has experienced many changes over 30 years, all with major benefits and minimal pain. Our Community Center brings diverse residents together for an array of activities. The Greenbelt Museum, Farmers Market, Old Greenbelt Theatre and Aquatic & Fitness Center are just a few of the benefits we enjoy as Greenbelters. J has not only been a leader in Greenbelt but also in the larger community working

on the regional Council of Governments, the State’s Maryland Municipal League, the Maryland Mayor’s Association and the National League of Cities. In whatever membership role she assumed, J was usually elected by her peers to be president or chair.

City managers, city clerks, city department heads and other city staff change. City councilmembers change. J and other long-serving members of council have been key to the smooth transition from old to new. Do you remember when the council was all white? The council chose to expand from five to seven members. Some said, “We’ve always done it this way.” Mayor Davis chose to lead us to a “new” way.

J Davis attends and participates in nearly all community activities, large and small, or so it seems. We expect to still see her everywhere in Greenbelt. Wherever she goes, we should thank her for her tireless 30 years of public service and wish her many good years ahead.

Sandra and David Lange

Corrections

Last week’s story on the maglev train project referred to the Federal Railway Administration. The correct name is the Federal Railroad Administration.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW

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301-681-6636

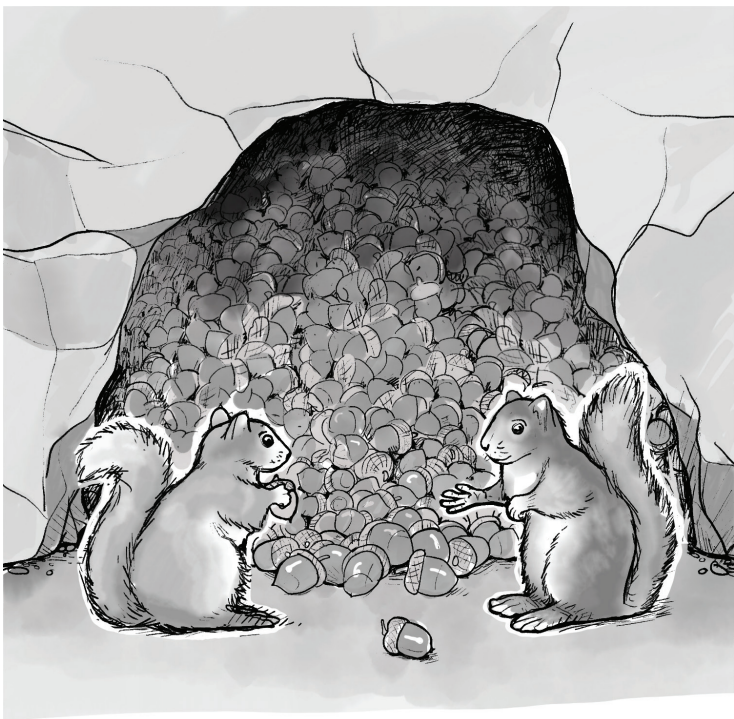
No special equipment needed



Register

★★★★to★★★★

VOTE



And this is my storage for the squirrel apocalypse.

- M. Kusie, News Review, June 16, 2022

Letters Policy during City Elections

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer’s name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

The News Review will not print letters endorsing candidates. The News Review will not print a letter raising a new issue the week prior to election day, when no other party would have a chance to respond.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com

HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cathie Meetre, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Deanna Dawson, secretary; Tom Jones, treasurer; Pat Scully, Carol Griffith and Sandy Rodgers

PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.

GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center’s east door near the municipal building.



A female house sparrow comes in for a landing at a bird feeder.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Dumb Money

The ultimate David vs. Goliath tale, the film is based on the insane true story of everyday people who flipped the script on Wall Street and got rich by turning GameStop (yes, the mall videogame store) into the world’s hottest company. In the middle of everything is regular guy Keith Gill (Paul Dano), who starts it all by sinking his life savings into the stock and posting about it. When his social posts start blowing up, so does his life and the lives of everyone following him. As a stock tip becomes a movement, everyone gets rich – until the billionaires fight back, and both sides find their worlds turned upside down. Also starring Pete Davidson, Vincent D’Onofrio, America Ferrera, Nick Offerman and Anthony Ramos.

Fair Play

When a coveted promotion at a cutthroat financial firm arises, once supportive exchanges between lovers Emily (Phoebe Dynevor) and Luke (Alden Ehrenreich) begin to sour into something more sinister. As the power dynamics irrevocably shift in their relationship, the couple must face the true price of success and the unnerving limits of ambition. In her feature debut, writer-director Chloe Domont weaves a taut relationship thriller, staring down the destructive gender dynamics that pit partners against each other in a world that is transforming faster than the rules can keep up. Also starring Eddie Marsan, Rich Sommer and Sebastian De Souza, the film unravels the uncomfortable collision of empowerment and ego.

A Place in the Sun

In this classic version of Theodore Dreiser’s novel An American Tragedy, George Eastman (Montgomery Clift), the nephew of a wealthy industrialist, is excluded from high society and given a blue-collar job at his uncle’s factory. While ascending the ranks of the company, George becomes romantically involved with co-worker Alice Tripp (Shelley Winters). However, when he is introduced to socialite Angela Vickers (Elizabeth Taylor), he quickly falls for her, leading to a tragic love triangle.



Greenbelt Cinema

129 Centerway

301-329-2034

www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!

Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,

Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:

Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions

CC = Closed Captions

DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:

SEPTEMBER 29th - OCTOBER 5th

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Dumb Money (R) (CC) (DVS)

(2023) (104 mins)

Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM

Sat. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM

Sun. 2:30 PM (OC), 5:15 PM

Mon. 4:30 PM

Tues. 7:30 PM

Wed. 7:30 PM

Thurs. 5:30 PM

A Place in the Sun (NR)

(1951) (122 mins)

Free Monday Matinee!

Mon. 1:00 PM

Thurs. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fair Play (R) (CC) (DVS)

(2023) (113 mins)

Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM

Sat. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM

Sun. 2:15 PM, 5:00 PM

Mon. 1:30 PM (OC), 4:15 PM

Tues. 7:15 PM

Wed. 7:15 PM

Thurs. 7:30 PM

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Six New Ladies of Charity Are Inducted at St. Hugh’s



New St. Hugh Ladies of Charity members, from left, are Janet Baker, Betty Timer, Anne Gardner, Anu Simon, Bernadette Onuorah and Cathy Taylor, with Deacon Candidate Michael Brooks.

On Sunday, September 24, the Prince George’s County Ladies of Charity held its first in-person new member induction service and luncheon hosted by the St. Hugh Church Ladies of Charity. More than 100 Prince George’s Ladies of Charity members and their guests attended. The Prince George’s Ladies of Charity members come from Catholic Churches throughout the county and coordinate food pantries, clothes closets and other services for those in need.

Regina Barrett, president of the Prince George’s Ladies of Charity, said how wonderful it was to again meet in person to induct 14 new members and to share a meal together as a com-

munity. Barrett thanked the St. Hugh Ladies of Charity for hosting the event. Michael Brooks, St. Hugh Archdiocesan Deacon Candidate, presided at the service. Brooks encouraged the ladies to maintain their faith and good works in these very challenging times.

Obituaries

Larry Hartzell



Larry B. Hartzell

A celebration of life for Larry Hartzell Sr. will be held on October 28 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Beltsville-Adelphi Boys and Girls Club facility, 11705 Roby Avenue in Beltsville. Larry was born June 29, 1960 in Tromso, Norway. He died peacefully in his sleep on June 4, 2023, at his home in Richlands, N.C. He was 62 years old.

Larry enjoyed scouting as a boy, was a Cub Scout leader and helped with first aid during summer camps. During his time in

Greenbelt, he was a leader with the Greenbelt Cub Scouts Pack 202. He was also involved with St. Hugh’s school and helped with the butterfly garden and pond.

Larry played volleyball and racquetball and played soccer for a traveling team, playing out of the U.S.A. He was a soccer coach for the Beltsville Adelphi Boys and Girls Club.

Larry is survived by his wife Joan Ellen Yakupkovic Hartzell, daughter Elizabeth Hartzell and son Larry Hartzell Jr., as well as his mother, Johanna Hartzell, sister Helena Schmidt and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his father, Edmund Hartzell and his first adoptive mother, Jacqueline Hartzell. He would become a grandfather in November 2023.



Condolences to the family of Larry Hartzell Sr., including his wife, Joan, who lived in Greenbelt for over 20 years, his children and friends.

Congratulations to Charlene Shaffer Backstrom, of Green Ridge House, on her election as treasurer of the Prince George’s County Ladies’ Auxiliary.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
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For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
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3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

October 1, 2023 at 3:00
Giving Life the Shape of Justice

Rev. Ann Kadlecsek with Worship Associate Anne Hoover

Our theme for this month (the first of the 6 values in the proposed Article II revision) is Justice. In this service, we’ll explore some of the theology behind being a justice-oriented religion, and what it might mean for us.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



“The world of humanity is possessed of two wings: the male and the female. So long as these two wings are not equivalent in strength, the bird will not fly.”
– ‘Abdu’l-Bahá



Greenbelt Bahá’í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Join us for World-wide Communion Sunday



The Bible Says...

The Ten Commandments
#4-Keep Holy The Sabbath
Exodus 20:8-11



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)

MCFcc.org

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Join Us Sunday

10:15 AM

for Worship

and Church School

We are an
Open and Affirming
Church

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

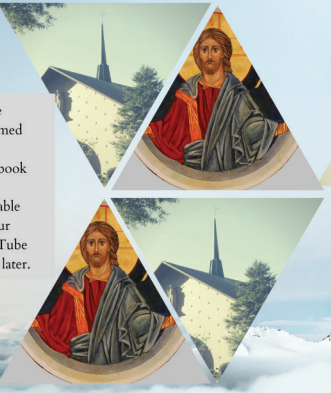
ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org



St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704

301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

Join us for In-Person Worship every Sunday at 10 AM
Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM

To view services online:

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>
Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;
Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

Please contact the church office if you are interested in any of these resources.

Our Mission: To share God’s love with everyone to bring hope and change lives.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

MASS

Sundays 10:00 a.m.
City Council Room
25 Crescent Road

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
FDeBernardo@aol.com

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org





City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER 2-6

- Monday, October 2, **NO MEETING**
- Tuesday, October 3 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**, *On the Agenda: Approval of Meeting Minutes, 2023 Election Updates, Review Election Training Manual, Review Judge & Clerk Applications*
- Tuesday, October 3 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, *On the Agenda: Review Past Meeting Minutes, Discuss Possible Extra Tree Canopy Grant Application Period, Discuss Significant Tree Walk for the Fall Fest on 10/14*
- Tuesday, October 3 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Department Demonstration of License Reader Cameras, Review of Updated General Orders*
- Wednesday, October 4, **NO MEETING**
- Wednesday, October 4 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Approval of September 20 Minutes, ARPA: Draft Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan Implementation Project List, Staff Updates*
- In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.*

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge this fall: Emergency Diaper Program, Nursing Program, My Groceries to Go, Powerful Tools for Caregivers Series, Assistance in Lowering Household Expenses, Stress Surfing, PEACE Program, Generational Legacy Planning, Dealing with Behavioral Issues of Dementia Seminar, and Staging Cognitive Decline.

For descriptions and links visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPprograms.

EARLY AND MAIL-IN VOTING ANY REGISTERED GREENBELT VOTER MAY CHOOSE TO VOTE BY EARLY VOTING or VOTE BY MAIL-IN NO MORE EXCUSES!

EARLY VOTING: Any qualified voter of the City of Greenbelt may choose to vote by EARLY VOTING.

EARLY VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS

- Greenbelt Community Center** – (15 Crescent Road)
Saturday, November 4, 10 am – 3 pm and
Sunday, November 5, 10 am – 3 pm
- Schrom Hills Park Clubhouse** – (6915 Hanover Parkway)
Saturday, November 4, 10 am – 3 pm and
Sunday, November 5, 10 am – 3 pm
- Springhill Lake Recreation Center** – (6101 Cherrywood Lane)
Saturday, November 4, 10 am – 3 pm and
Sunday, November 5, 10 am – 3 pm

VOTING BY MAIL: Any qualified voter of the City of Greenbelt may choose to vote by MAIL-IN BALLOT.

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS WILL RECEIVE IN THE MAIL AN APPLICATION TO VOTE BY MAIL-IN BALLOT. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO VOTE BY MAIL, YOU MAY DISREGARD THE APPLICATION. YOU MAY VOTE AT ANY POLLING LOCATION ON ELECTION DAY.

Military service members, their families, and other U.S. citizens abroad who are covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act may also use the Federal Post Card Application (<http://www.fvap.gov>) to request an absentee ballot for City election.

Applications to receive mail-in ballot must be received by noon on **Monday, November 6, 2023**. We encourage you to return your application (by mail or in-person) as soon as possible.

Return your executed mail-in ballot by

- 1) Sending it through the U.S. mail in time to arrive by **November 6**,
- 2) Hand-delivering it to the City Clerk's office, or
- 3) Placing it into one of the three drop-box locations. (**Police Station, Schrom Hills Park, and Springhill Lake Recreation Center**)

Questions? Call the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000, or send email to banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION ELECTION CLERKS NEEDED

The City of Greenbelt Board of Elections is seeking several residents who would be willing to serve as election officials on November 7, 2023, from 6 am until about 9 pm. Clerks must also attend a training session on November 6 from 7 pm until about 9 pm.

This is a rewarding experience for anyone who is interested in the political process and would like to play an active role in the local election. There is a stipend of \$175 plus a training fee of \$25.

There may also be a need for additional clerks to count mail-in and early voting ballots. This job would entail working for three to four hours in the late afternoon/early evening of November 7. No preliminary training is necessary. The pay for mail-in and early voting ballot clerks is \$50.

Application forms are available on City's website www.greenbeltmd.gov and at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, by **APPOINTMENT ONLY**. The deadline to apply is September 29, 2023.

For further information, call or e-mail Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000 or elections@greenbeltmd.gov.

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION Dates & Deadlines for 2023 City Council Elections

First day to receive papers and file nomination petition	8/21
Last day to file nomination petition (5 pm)	9/26
Date of drawing for placement on ballot (7:30 pm)	9/26
First interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12 pm)	9/29
First day to send out mail-in ballots	10/06
Last day to register to vote (must be received by 4:30 pm in Upper Marlboro)	10/09
Second interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12 pm)	10/27
Early voting begins	11/04
Training session for election judges and clerks	11/06
Election (7 am - 8 pm)	11/07
Mail-in ballots must be received (by 6 pm)	11/07
Final Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (12 pm)	11/10
Charter meeting for swearing-in (7:30 pm)	11/13

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson , City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education**, and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

GREENBELT LITTLES PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Greenbelt Littles Preschool is a licensed traditional preschool program that focuses on social development, fine and gross motor skills, listening, and following instructions. We offer preschool our program Monday through Friday at the Youth Center. Financial aid is available for eligible Greenbelt residents.

For more information, please visit our Virtual Recreation Center online at www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation or give us a call at (301) 397-2200.

GREENBELT ARTS

ARTFUL AFTERNOON EXTRAVAGANZA Sunday, October 1, 1 - 4 pm

Mingle and shop with the Greenbelt Community Center Artists in Residence, participate in free art activities and much more! Visit <https://bit.ly/44LArqF>.

GREENBELT CARES Individual Adult Therapy

Greenbelt CARES has openings for Individual Adult Therapy. Please call (301) 345-6660 or email cares@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT JOB FAIR October 14, 12 - 2 PM

Beltway Plaza by TJ Maxx

Dive into endless career options at the Greenbelt Job Fair. Ignite your journey with local employers and thrive! Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobfair.

GREENBELT LEARN 2 EARN

Youth Workforce Development Program

Hosted by Greenbelt Recreation

GREENBELT LEARN 2 EARN

Youth Workforce Development Program
Program Starts October 2023

Topics include financial literacy, interview preparation, skills assessments, and more! Hear from local businesses on what they are looking for, paid internships and employment opportunities, stipend rewarded for excellent attendance.

11th and 12th grade Greenbelt residents may apply. This program starts in October and meets for 2 hours every other Saturday.

Visit <https://forms.office.com/r/QjViVeTrB9>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019. To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/AqNxCARjwioCntWf9>.

Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers - For more information, contact Flora Li (301) 412-2480.

ASK ME ABOUT ARPA

Your website for all of **Greenbelt's ARPA projects & grants!**

For all up-to-date ARPA program information including project selection, project updates, department information, and more, visit www.engagegreenbelt.org.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE EVENT September 30, 10 am - 2 pm Beltway Plaza Back Parking Lot

Talk with local Electric Vehicle (EV) owners and their experiences.

Email sdskolnik@gmail.com for more information.

BUDDY ATTICK PARK MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY LAST WEEK, CLOSES 10/2

The City of Greenbelt would like your participation to help determine priorities for improvements to Buddy Attick Park. Your input will help guide City staff in planning and managing the park well into the future. This survey should take approximately 5 minutes to complete and is available in both Spanish and English.

To take the survey, scan the QR code to the right or visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/buddyattickpark>.



CITY ELECTION INFORMATION

REMINDER - VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The final day to register to for the
2023 Greenbelt City Election
is Monday, October 9, 2023

For information about registering to vote in Prince George's County, contact the County Board of Elections at (301) 341-7300 or visit www.elections.state.md.us. Forms for voter registration and address/name change are available at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, and the Greenbelt Library, 11 Crescent Road. Forms are also available on the city website, www.greenbeltmd.gov.

All forms must be received by the County Board of Elections in Largo no later than 4:30 pm, Monday, October 9.

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson, City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

*If you are already registered to vote in Prince George's County but have moved or changed your name since the last election, you must complete an application to have this information changed. **This can also be done online at www.elections.state.md.us.*

THEATRE continued from page 1

cinema too closely to Old Greenbelt. The change from Theatre to Cinema is to clarify that the organization is focused on film, not stage arts.

“Eighty-five years ago the doors of the Greenbelt Theatre opened for the first time,” McGrath explained in her opening remarks. Strangely enough, on September 21, 1938, a big hurricane hit the East Coast, explaining why people are wearing coats in the historical photograph of opening night. When the theater first opened, she said, “movie theaters were a source for news. This was the location for Sunday mass, the site of the Labor Day Dance – 500 wooden chairs could be moved out. Kids could win a bicycle or hula hoop on this very stage.”

Mayor Emmett Jordan gave opening remarks, speaking in commemoration of the anniversary. Councilmembers Kristin Weaver, Ric Gordon, Judith Davis and Konrad Herling were also in attendance. Jordan thanked the organization’s board of directors and hardworking staff and the sponsors of the event, but also all those who attend and support the nonprofit, saying that the Cinema is “one of the hubs and such an important anchor for Roosevelt Center.” Jordan cited recent milestones, such as in 2015 when the city moved to support the theater as a nonprofit; a capital campaign that yielded the new roof, seats, decor and accessibility features; and, more recently, the new Screening Room.

A string of fun “home mov-



Greenbelt Cinema Executive Director Caitlin McGrath speaks at the Night with the Stars, the theater’s 85th anniversary celebration.

ies,” provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, featured casual, behind-the-scenes glimpses of the stars of the mid-century silver screen – Jimmy Stewart, Olivia de Havilland, Errol Flynn, Basil Rathbone, Carmen Miranda, Gypsy Rose Lee, little Shirley Temple herself cavorting with the goats of Heidi and many more. Jessica DePrest, who earned her Ph.D. in cinema and media studies from UCLA in 2022, provided informative narration to the silent home movies, with live piano accompaniment provided by Andrew Simpson.

Each attendee received a commemorative pin featuring the Greenbelt marquee reading “85

Years.” A line of merchandise featuring the new logo was unveiled, included tote bags, car magnets and T-shirts.

Sponsors for the evening included RRR Automotive, the Law Offices of Johnine Clark, Manuel Tree Service, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Boaz Yavnai Design Build, Co-op Supermarket, Generous Joe’s Deli, Greenbelt Sunoco, Kim Kash of Compass, McNamee Hosea, Redstart Creative and Sexton Strategy.



PHOTO BY IAN BLACKWELL ROGERS

At the Library

The Greenbelt Library is open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In case of inclement weather or an emergency, real-time updates to the Library’s schedule are posted at pgcmls.info/alerts.

Storytimes
Friday, September 29, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8723448.

Monday, October 2, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9020744.

Wednesday, October 4, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9020825.

Wednesday, October 4, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by PGCPS Infants and Toddlers for early intervention students and up to 12 community families. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9035439.

Talk Health
Monday, October 2, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Under the supervision of registered nurses, University of Maryland School of Nursing students will conduct free weekly health screenings, referrals, health education and classes on a variety of topics, including stress reduction, healthy eating and nutrition, managing chronic illness and low impact exercises. For more information, go to pgcmls.info/event/9250575.



Teens Create
Monday, October 2, 4 p.m., ages 13 to 18. Decorate your own tote bag. All materials needed will be supplied. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9013766.

Mucha Música
Tuesday, October 3, 6 p.m., ages newborn to 12. Delve into the rich cultural heritage of the Caribbean, Central, and South America as Cantaré performs songs in Spanish and Portuguese, accompanied by fascinating historical insights. This interactive bilingual performance invites the whole family to sing, play percussion, and dance to Latin rhythms like salsa and merengue. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8861307.

Teen Action Group
Wednesday, October 4, 4:30 p.m., ages 13 to 18. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9013801.

Ride and Read
Thursday, October 5, 11 a.m. Get some physical activity at the library! Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with great free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Freegal to enjoy during the workout. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9020908.



Luminis HealthSM

Local, Caring and Committed to Women’s Health

New Ob-Gyn Office Now Open in Greenbelt

7501 Greenway Center Dr, Ste 910, Greenbelt, MD 20770
P: (301) 982-0657

Visit Luminis.Health/Schedule to make an appointment today

POPE continued from page 1

Prevention Steering Committee and the NLC Small Cities Council which she chaired in 2016. She was also on the board of the Prince George’s County Municipal Association in 2022.

Pope earned a fellowship from the University of Maryland’s Academy for Excellence in Local Governance. This provided her with a thorough understanding of the functions of local municipalities and a strong understanding of governmental policy and ethics. Additionally, Pope completed workshops at the University of Maryland’s Academy for Excellence on Leadership and Human Cognition, Economic Development and Leadership and Negotiation, Government and Civility.

Pope has experience in international business relations and banking where her bilingual ability, attention to detail and organizational skills were critical. She has been employed by Prince George’s County Schools for 23 years, first at Greenbelt Middle School and currently at Springhill Lake Elementary. She most recently has taught an after-school Achieve Tutoring Program that teaches social, emotional and physical wellness.

Before proudly earning U.S. citizenship in 2006, Pope became involved in several community groups in Greenbelt. A member of St. Hugh of Grenoble Church since 2000, she has been involved in numerous fundraising efforts, the most notable being the annual Oktoberfest where she is best known for her authentic German dishes. She served on the Belle Point Homeowners’ Association from 2006 to 2019 and joined the Charlestowne Village Condominium Association in 2019. She is also a member of the American Legion, Post 136 Ladies Auxiliary.

Pope has lived in Greenbelt for 25 years. She came to Greenbelt with her family from Germany after her husband, Joseph, retired from the United States Army. She originally lived in Franklin Park and currently resides in Belle Point. When not attending council meetings and events, Silke walks her shelter dogs, Chip and Bambi, exercises and spends time with her six grandchildren.

JORDAN continued from page 1

at Seton Hall University. Jordan participated in the UM Legacy Leadership Institute on Municipal Government in 2008 and completed an Academy for Excellence in Local Governance Fellowship in 2011. He frequently attends workshops and conferences to stay well-informed about issues impacting Greenbelt.

Jordan holds the distinction of being the first African American elected to council in 2009.

Currently, Jordan serves on the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Maryland Municipal League. He is past president of the Prince George’s County Municipal Association. He works hard to maintain productive relationships with representatives from surrounding municipal, county, state and federal governments. These external relationships provide a platform to advocate for the best interests of Greenbelt.

Jordan’s career spans more than three decades of experience in planning and implementing capacity building programs for organizations. Since 2005, he has worked as an independent contractor, providing professional services focused on marketing, communications, strategic planning and fund development. He has worked with a variety of nonprofit organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution, University of Maryland at College Park, Plainfield Neighborhood Health Center and the United Negro College Fund.

Before 2009, Jordan served as a member of the city’s Advisory Planning Board, where he led an initiative to develop a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Greenbelt. He has been a board member for the Greenbriar Condominiums Association, Phase I and served as the chair for the Greenbelt Community Foundation Board. Additionally, he co-chaired the Urban Roundtable, an auxiliary organization affiliated with the Greater Washington Urban League.

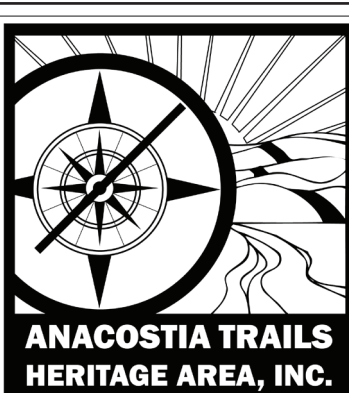

An energetic and active person, Jordan enjoys attending concerts, art exhibits and cultural programs. His favorite pastimes include spending time outdoors around Greenbelt, playing tennis, bicycling and playing the guitar.

Buy Nothing Group Hosts Potluck Dinner

The Greenbelt Buy Nothing group is hosting its first community potluck on the green in front of the Community Center on Saturday, September 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Bring a picnic blanket and a dish to share (labeled). For more information, email Melissa Ehrenreich at melissaaehrenreich@gmail.com.



Weekends through October 14, 2023
The Bowie Playhouse
2ndStarProductions.org



Explore the History, Culture, Arts and Nature of Prince George’s County!
Curated routes and trail maps:
anacostiatrails.org

Voter Registration for City Election Closes October 9

Have you been procrastinating? It is too late to decide to run for city council. It’s too late to sign a candidate’s petition. But there is still time to register to vote in the November 7 Greenbelt election. If you haven’t done it, just do it!

Being registered to vote in a Greenbelt election means being age 16 or older by election day and being registered to vote in Prince George’s County at a residence address that lies within the boundaries of the City of Greenbelt.

The deadline for registering or for correcting registration information for purposes of the city election is Monday, October 9. Forms and corrections must be received by the Prince George’s County Board of Elections in Largo by 4:30 p.m.

Voters can check to see if their registration information is correct on the website of the State Board of Elections at elections.maryland.gov. From the home page, click on Lookup Your Voter Information, then enter name, birthdate and ZIP code to search for the registration and confirm it’s correct. If it’s



incorrect, click on the link below to update online, or mail in a correction.

Anyone with a Maryland driver’s license or Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) identification card can register to vote or make corrections to registration information online at elections.maryland.gov by clicking on Update Your Voter Information.

For those who prefer paper, forms can be printed from the state website and returned by postal mail. No computer? No problem. Residents can pick up forms at the Greenbelt Library, from the city clerk’s office or from the county Board of Elections.

If time does not permit mailing forms in time to be received by the deadline, registration or changes may be accomplished in person at the county Board of Elections office at 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, in Largo or at any full-service MVA office during regular hours.

Questions about registration should be directed to the county Board of Elections office at 301-341-7300 or to the city clerk’s office at 301-474-8000. For more information about the election, visit the city website at greenbeltnmd.gov/government and click on Election Information.

Golden Age Meetings

All Greenbelt seniors are invited to join the Greenbelt Golden Age Club. Weekly meetings are held on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the second-floor meeting room of the Community Center. There is always something fun going on. Come on down and make some new friends or check in with your old friends. The Greenbelt Fall Activity Guide is now available, so stop by the office and sign up for some great activities and trips.

Upcoming meetings:

October 4, business meeting (board and committee chairs meet at 10 a.m.)

October 11, Betty Timer will present kitchen hacks and Liz Walker will discuss one-handed kitchen tasks.

October 18, birthday celebration – bring lunch and maybe a dessert to share

October 25, BINGO.

Greenbelt Arts Center

is seeking a volunteer box office manager to sell tickets for performances and to process online purchases.

Requirements: confident in handling money and the public; database experience; 18 or older; available for 1-2 performances a month. Background check is required because we work with children.

Email boxgac@greenbeltartscenter.org if interested.

City Notes

At the Aquatic & Fitness Center, the indoor pool was closed due to a burst pipe. While Public Works and contractors worked on repairs, all activities and programs were canceled. Staff continued work on winterizing the outdoor pool.

Public Works collected 23.97 tons of refuse and 9.88 tons of recyclables, provided 132 rides on the Greenbelt Connection and began resurfacing the Lakecrest tennis courts.

The Community Center provided meeting space for the Greenbelt Assistance in Living program’s produce distribution, Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Community Orchestra, Greenbrook Estates, Community Development, Volksmarchers, Advisory Planning Board, Prince George’s County Peace & Justice Coalition and Unplugged.

Arts staff offered a raku firing outside the Aquatic & Fitness Center with the help of Public Works staff. Sparkle Mart jurying is complete; the show is full and will feature more than 70 regional artists and crafters.

The Museum provides ongoing administrative support for the Reparations Commission, whose monthly meeting convened at the Municipal Building.

CARES welcomed bilingual Family Counselor Marina Kerlow.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
Wednesday, October 4th at 5:30 PM
Mowatt Memorial UMC
40 Ridge Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770.



Our Blessing of the Animals is to celebrate and thank our Creator for our pets' special role in our lives.

Please bring your pets and join us for a special blessing. The blessing, provided by Pastor Evelyn Romero, will take place on our church side lawn.

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OCT. 14, 2023 5PM-12AM

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School News

SCHOOLS continued from page 1

to go,” and asked them not to play “amendment games.” “I do not want this board to go back to its past,” he said, referencing the acrimony, lawsuits and ethics investigations of recent years. “We’ve been there, with endless fights over who got money from whom and which union got which contract.”

Steve St. Clair of the Local 197 Carpenter’s Union testified that PLAs are “investments in the community like these schools are,” and other union members, including a bus driver, a construction worker, a carpenter and more spoke of the importance of a PLA for union labor.

What the public comments were speaking to was an amendment that came from the floor when the agenda reached the approval to proceed to commercial and financial closing for Phase Two. Newly appointed board member Jocelyn Route proposed that the board amend the approval to include a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a union, which had been emailed to board members from the union Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) the prior Friday.

The MOU was not on the agenda and was not shared in Board Docs where meeting documents are placed, which meant its consideration would likely violate public meeting laws. It also incensed some board members.

Associate Superintendent Jason Washington said, “We’ve never seen the MOU. It was never sent to us.” Washington said they have committed to “robust union participation” in Phase Two and require the developer, PGCEC, to engage in good faith with unions and had already set up those meetings.

County Council Pressure
Route (at-large, appointed), who made the motion to add the MOU, argued that it was unprofessional of board members not to have read the emails that are sent to them. “Chair [of Prince George’s County Council] Tom Dernoga requests Superintendent House that you give him a call,” she announced. “He stated that you have not called him back.”

“My councilmember, Tom Dernoga, reached out to me as well,” said Board Member David Murray (District 1). “I’m looking at the email where he made clear that the county council is not taking [up] the P3 without this PLA agreement ... It’s not going to be on the agenda without the PLA.” Murray said he was in strong support, arguing the P3 could not

go through without the PLA and not approving it would hold up the new schools.

Community Values
Briggs stressed that the board also had to consider workers who are parents and family members of students and create contracts that reflect community values. He was in favor of delaying the vote.

Council Influence
Board Vice Chair Lolita Walker (District 9) objected to the county council’s reported stance: “What we do hear at a public meeting for the first time ... is that our council people have said that they’re saying no to a project that is imperative to our schools.” She expressed concern “that our council is what’s driving the decisions that we’re making tonight ... It’s not an action that we decided to take. Nor is it on our agenda.”

Board member Walter Fields (at-large, appointed) argued, “Our children deserve the best schools possible and they deserve them now. I’m really irate that I can hear a member of our county council make a threat, because we are an independent governing body.” The “whole process reeks of politics and nothing else.” “Build these damn schools!”

Urgency
“Our kids can’t wait ... Our buildings are crumbling. We have children in swing space. We risk this entire timeline if we delay this,” argued Board Member Pamela Boozer-Strother (District 3). She said the board had made it clear they expected their partner to make a PLA and work out details because developers would know the impact of finances.

Call to Delay
Shayla Adams-Stafford (District 4) called to delay the vote. Judy Mickens-Murray (at-large, See SCHOOLS, page 10

Council Talks New School Year And Old Challenges with Briggs

by Abigail Taylor

On August 30, Greenbelt City Council held a session with Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) Board of Education Member for District 2, Jonathan Briggs. The meeting was also attended by Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) members Stephenie Arcido, Jenni Pompei and Robert Synder, alongside community members.

Expressing his optimism for the school year, Briggs began with his impressions of the first week of school. Although he has been hearing concerns about transportation and bus routes, overall he felt the school year has had a good start.

Mayor Emmett Jordan asked Briggs if, coming up on a year into his first term, he’s had a chance to visit all the Greenbelt schools and meet with their principals and listen to concerns. Briggs replied that he has met with about 10 of the principals in his district and visited some of the schools, including Eleanor Roosevelt High.

In school board news, Briggs noted two recently appointed members are Jocelyn Route and Raine Rivera Forbes (student member). However, given recent legislation, the board will become a fully elected body in 2024, said Briggs.

Transportation
Jordan asked about initiatives to alleviate problems such as students being able to ride the Prince George’s County bus for free or hiring private companies to drive smaller vans or buses. “Are any of these options available and what’s being done about the transportation situation?” asked Jordan. Briggs pointed to

the StopFinder app as a tool to assist parents in their children’s school transit. However, he admitted the app was inconsistent and could be counted on in much the same way the weather could. Consequently, Briggs said he hopes to have a conversation with the school board to ensure that technology is assisting parents in receiving the information they need. Briggs said Route 11 connects Old Greenbelt to Greenway Center, Greenbelt Metro Station and the federal courthouse and provides students with transportation along “touch points throughout the county.” He said he’d heard the idea of vans and the main restrictions are achieving licensure for drivers and the widespread driver shortage. He suggested an audit be taken to be clear about what the challenges are, including the traffic buses are facing due to parents driving their students to school.

Jordan expressed concern over traffic slowing down school buses and parents’ hesitancy to utilize the school bus option since Covid. He noted that James Spence, Dora Kennedy French Immersion School principal, had told him Greenbelt police were helping with traffic management at that school. The media’s coverage of school buses has scared parents to the point that they are all dropping their kids off, said Jordan. Briggs responded that it’s a “coordinated approach,” with the school district, police department and transportation and would require “families following the rules, being timely,” and not blocking pathways. There are possibilities for greater enforcement of traffic rules, suggested

Briggs.
Councilmember Judith Davis shared Jordan’s concern about students arriving late due to school bus delays and suggested that may be why so many parents are dropping students off by car. She raised further questions about school bus safety, including bullying. “How many bus drivers are we short?” asked Davis. Briggs estimated “in the 50-plus range.” Davis asked what the school board was doing to incentivize the hiring of bus driving. Briggs said they hadn’t had a lot of discussion about that. Briggs believes it is necessary to consider alternative pathways to becoming a bus driver.

Teacher Shortage
Councilmember Silke Pope introduced the issue of teacher shortages in schools. Briggs noted it was a national issue. Citing partnerships with local universities, Briggs suggested pipelines to bring students to teaching. He also cited work with the National Education Association to increase teacher salaries, and there was a bump in pay, he said, but there needs to continue to be conversations about bumping salaries for teachers. Briggs referred to professional development opportunities and sufficient time for teacher planning as two areas in which there have been steps taken by the school board, but they can continue to do more. Pope followed up with an observation that it appeared students from the University of Maryland’s teaching internship program interned here but did not remain in PGCPS to teach. Briggs wasn’t sure that’s

See BRIGGS, page 10

Greenbelt Farmers Market



Sundays 10a - 2p
Southway and Centerway

GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org



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County Bill Requires Cameras At Apartment Parking, Exits

by Stephanie Quinn

As carjackings and thefts continue to concern residents, a Prince George’s County Council bill (CB-066-2023) seeks to require apartment complexes with over 100 units to maintain working 24-hour security cameras at entries and exits in parking garages and lots as well as in common areas. The bill, which was held in committee since the summer, was passed by the council’s Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee on Tuesday, September 26.

This legislation will affect multiple apartment complexes in Greenbelt and has raised questions locally and throughout the county about cost effectiveness, property managers’ budget priorities and who bears financial responsibility for the security measures.

Prince George’s County Council Vice Chair Wala Blegay, who proposed the bill, said it was necessary to ensure the safety of Prince George’s County residents. “I was inspired to introduce this bill after attending a meeting in a senior community in my district where a carjacking occurred during the meeting. I later found out that no cameras were working at this facility and the management made it clear they were not required to have working cameras,” explained Blegay.

During the bill’s second reading in July, Ryan Washington, a representative of the Apartment Office Building Association, spoke against it, suggesting it could lead to a decline in affordable housing in the county because of the “significant cost” that would be imposed on their members and would impact tenants through the cost of rent. Cameras can be defective and vandalized or damaged and criminals can wear masks, argued Washington, though Councilmember Eric Olsen pointed out that many of the association’s members do have cameras and they are considered a best practice and provide a benefit.

A second section of the bill that would have required management of age-restricted senior housing to hire at least one 12-hour security guard daily was removed through amendment prior to its passage this week. “I was strongly in favor of requiring security guards in senior facilities, but in the interest of cooperation with my colleagues and to ensure that this bill will pass in the committee, I voted on the amendment to remove that provision from the bill. The passage of this bill is essential,” explained Blegay.

County Councilmember Ingrid Watson, who represents Greenbelt but was not a member of the committee working on the bill,

said she is committed to working with the council “to address concerns related to the financial impact of the measure on our seniors, property owners and vulnerable communities.”

Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan cautioned that cameras may not prevent crimes without staff to monitor the footage and that good lighting in parking lots may more effectively deter smash-and-grab burglaries. Cameras also require infrastructure, such as broadband and power sources.

Although cameras help law enforcement solve crimes, Jordan said, opposition from apartment development owners may scuttle the bill.

Greenbelt Police Department spokesperson Ricardo Dennis said cameras could prevent and help solve crimes. “Once individuals know that an area is being monitored, it would prevent them from going there to do any illegal acts,” Dennis said. “And for people who are still brazen enough to go out there and commit those acts ... it would give us a great tool to work with to help identify and charge those individuals.” However, the cameras would need to be able to capture images of sufficient quality, noted Dennis.

Charla Lowery, 52, said that while she doesn’t feel unsafe in Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station, where she has lived for five years, property owners should fund cameras.

“They’re gonna drive up prices anyway,” Lowery said. “Honestly, I think they should eat the cost, just because we pay to live in this very expensive apartment complex.”

Cameras in stairwells, Lowery said, could prevent theft of packages – a problem Lowery has experienced.

John Snowden, 60, who has lived in the Gates of Cipriano Apartments for three years, said the cost of security cameras would be better spent on after-school programming for young residents.

“There’s no crime taking place in this neighborhood,” Snowden said. “They can put the money to use to do something for the young people.”

Lodenya Vines, 23, who has lived in Franklin Park for almost three years, said she hears shooting in the middle of the night and while walking to the store.

“It’s really dangerous over here. It is,” Vines said, stating that cost shouldn’t deter property owners from installing cameras. “A lot of things cost a lot of money, like rent. Everything costs something.”

“With the rise in crime and the large number of vacancies of public safety officers in our community, police officers need the additional help that security cameras can provide to catch perpetrators and bring them to justice,” Blegay told the News Review, following the passage of the bill on Tuesday. “We want the community to know that we hear you and are taking steps to protect you and your family.”

Stephanie Quinn is a University of Maryland journalism graduate student writing for the News Review.



A katydid on a gourd flower

PHOTO BY BARBARA BJANES

Business Alliance Anniversary Program

The Greenbelt Business Alliance will celebrate its one-year anniversary at Greenbelt Cinema on Wednesday, October 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. This event will feature a panel discussion with successful local business owners, offer networking opportunities and provide a chance to connect with fellow business professionals in the area. Register at this link: eventbrite.com/e/greenbelt-business-alliance-one-year-anniversary-tickets-716146843487.

Public Television Visits Cedars of Lebanon

On Monday, October 9, the WETA program Signature Dish will show its third episode of the season entitled Mediterranean Magic by visiting three restaurants, including Greenbelt’s Cedars of Lebanon. The episode will air at 9 p.m. on WETA PBS and 8 p.m. on WETA Metro. After the episode has been shown, it will be available to stream on the PBS App.



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 Website: jennipompi.com

By authority Jenni Pompei for Greenbelt, Kimberly Walsh, Treasurer



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SCHOOLS continued from page 8

appointed) said she'd support a week's postponement to allow the administration to receive the MOU and come back with a recommendation. Adams-Stafford objected to asking the superintendent and administration for a recommendation, asking only for a delay. Murray stepped in to "add some clarity to my colleague," stating they believed they'd have the votes to pass the MOU in a week when missing colleagues could attend and vote.

Outcome

The vote to postpone ultimately failed as did the motion to amend the approval to proceed to commercial and financial closing for Phase Two to include the MOU, with five in favor, six opposed and two abstentions. A motion to approve the Phase Two items as they were on the agenda also failed to garner majority support with six for, four against and two abstentions. There were cheers from the crowd of union representatives in the audience as the vote tally was summarized.

Campaign Funding Ties

Four board members voted to pass the funding that evening with the inclusion of the MOU: Adams-Stafford, Mickens-Murray (appointed), Murray and Route (appointed). Of the two elected members in favor (Adams-Stafford and Murray), LiUNA was a direct donor of \$6,000 to both campaigns (the maximum allowed). Those who voted against approving the Phase Two funding (without an amendment) were again Murray, Route but also Jackson and Briggs. Briggs received \$500 from LiUNA to his campaign.

Other donors to these board members include Progressive Maryland or its variously named PACs, which themselves receive hundreds of thousands of dollars from different unions, including the LiUNA/Baltimore Washington Construction and Public Employees Laborers PAC. For example, in March 2022, Progressive Maryland's Liberation Alliance PAC received \$50,000 directly from the Baltimore Washington Construction and Public Laborers PAC (the PAC of an affiliate of LiUNA) and a further \$35,000 two months later. Progressive Maryland also has a New Era Slate entity, whose finances show a \$15,000 contribution from Citizens for Tom Dernoga in 2022. Though Progressive Maryland didn't donate directly to Adams-Stafford's campaign, she is the spouse of its CEO. She did receive \$1,000 from Dernoga.

Understanding where considerable financial injections into campaigns come from is difficult, particularly when it comes from a PAC itself receiving money from other PACs and entities. Some of these donations are filed as out-of-state-non-federal committee, federal committee, or PAC Committee or Business Group rather than the category of labor union. Some donations come from entities that are unclear, like the Political Action Together Political Committee, which is a PAC that shares an address with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. Individuals and entities also donate in multiple ways, as individuals and as businesses they own, and Progressive Maryland paid \$21,419.92 for campaign mailings for Briggs, for example, which doesn't appear as a campaign donation in the same

way as the maximum allowable \$6,000 they donated directly (it doesn't appear as a campaign contribution but in a Political Disclosure Report Summary for the PAC).

Briggs

The Greenbelt News Review asked Briggs, who represents Greenbelt, whether there was unusual pressure on the board from the county council to get a particular MOU with a specific union through at the board level. Briggs said he couldn't speak to anyone's intentions but agreed it was "unusual." We raised the unusual nature of a union emailing board members directly with their MOU and asked Briggs if he thought it was problematic for those board members who receive sometimes large donations from LiUNA or the Baltimore Washington Construction and Public Employees Laborers PAC to then vote on an MOU with this particular union. "I definitely personally think that we should recuse ourselves," said Briggs. "If we're going to receive a donation from a union, particularly one that is involved in this process then, yeah, absolutely I don't think that's something in any reasonable sense makes sense ... It is a conflict of interest. I received a small amount from LiUNA and of course did receive quite a significant amount from Progressive Maryland, to your point with them receiving money." The connection didn't occur to him until after last week's meeting, said Briggs. He said his priority is making sure the process is fair and equitable and that workers are being treated fairly. He's also visited Springhill Lake Elementary School and says there's a significant need for the new school, though he wants to balance that need with ensuring fair treatment for workers.

The board is expected to vote again on funding for the Phase Two schools at a special board meeting the evening of Thursday, September 28.

Vote to Adopt the MOU (unsuccessful)

Adams-Stafford – Yes
Boozer-Strother – No
Briggs – No
Fields – No
Jackson – Abstain
J. Miller – No
Z. Miller – No
Murray – Yes
Route – Yes
Walker – No
Rivera-Forbes – Abstain
Mickens-Murray – Yes

Vote to approve the funding for Phase Two schools as written (unsuccessful)

Adams-Stafford – Abstain
Boozer-Strother – Yes
Briggs – No
Fields – Yes
Jackson – No
J. Miller – Yes
Z. Miller – Yes
Murray – No
Route – No
Walker – Yes
Rivera-Forbes – Abstain
Mickens-Murray – Yes



Springhill Lake Elementary is one of the schools scheduled to receive a new building in the Blueprint Schools Phase Two.

BRIGGS continued from page 8

the case and stressed the need for nontraditional pathways to teaching as an alternative to combat the teacher shortage, as well as reciprocity in credentialing between Maryland and Virginia.

Nurse Shortage

Jordan communicated his observations of the difficulties regarding hiring school nurses. Highlighting the pandemic's negative impact nationwide in this particular sector, Briggs expressed his shared concerns, noting that the board will continue to "track" possibilities for improvement. Jordan said similar difficulties persist in attaining school crossing guards. Briggs suggested partnerships can help with finding crossing guards, including retirees or those not in full-time employment and available for specific hours. Briggs stated that he will follow up on these issues. Jordan said he understood the difficulty with volunteers was that in the past they'd been able to volunteer for one shift at a school but now they're being told they need to take shifts at multiple schools.

Weapons Detectors

Briggs shared an update on the rollout of weapons detectors in school. The goal was to have them at front entrances of all schools and training for operators. Even though the pilot of nine schools didn't roll out successfully over the summer, they intend to roll them out over the school year, he said. Jordan asked

if there would be security guards rather than teachers staffing the machines and Briggs said there would.

Backpacks

Councilmember Ric Gordon asked if Briggs had received feedback on the clear backpack policy and if there were county resources to provide the backpacks to families experiencing hardships. Briggs said the clear backpack policy is now only mandatory for high school. Briggs said he hadn't received any feedback from high school parents saying they were concerned about it. He said the superintendent has said there will be opportunities for families to be provided with a backpack if they can't afford one.

Visiting Schools

Davis told Briggs, "I'm also very disappointed that in all the time that you've been on the school board you've only visited one of our six schools, Eleanor Roosevelt High School. How many of those schools did you visit on opening day?" Briggs said he had visited Greenbelt Middle as well and had conversations with the principals at Dora Kennedy and Springhill Lake Elementary. He did not respond to how many schools he visited on opening day. He said setting up school visits involved laborious obstacles and he didn't want to disrupt learning so would aim to visit more schools in October. Previously the emails and process for setting up visits took months just to meet with one principal, he told the council. He believed the process was now less cumbersome and he aimed to meet with all principals by the end of December.

An array of questions specific to Greenbelt schools were also raised at this meeting and are covered in an article that will appear in next week's issue.

Jim Cassels Award

If you are a Greenbelt resident, nonprofit or cooperative with an idea just waiting to be realized:

We have money for you!

Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative gives a \$1,500 award to a local group, cooperative or organization to implement a project or activity that contributes to the Greenbelt community.

The Jim Cassels Community Service Award honors its namesakes' many years of volunteer work in the Greenbelt community.

Applications are available at the customer service office at Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and online at www.greenbelt.coop/cms/community/jim-cassels-award

For more information contact Donna Hoffmeister at donna.hoffmeister@verizon.net


Deadline for submissions is

October 15, 2023



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred from September 18 to 24, 2023. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported a sexual assault, three domestic disputes, one with a weapon and two mental health diversions, one involving suicide.

Assaults

On September 20 at 3:37 p.m. near 100 Westway, a juvenile was walking home from school when he was attacked by a group of juveniles dressed in all black. The victim escaped and ran home, but had no idea which way the group went. He was taken to urgent care for medical treatment.

On September 20 at 4:55 p.m. near 6000 Breezewood Drive, a young man walking home from school was assaulted by a classmate. He was advised to speak with the school resource officer and school administration.

On September 23 at 1:25 p.m. near 6200 Springhill Drive, a female was attacked by three females. She had a previous disagreement with one of them. She was robbed of her cell phone and suffered minor injuries.

Armed Robbery

On September 20 at 7:53 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, a witness saw a man get out of a black midsize sedan, brandish a black firearm concealed in his hoodie, and threaten the man using the ATM to give him the money or he would kill him. The robber fled in his vehicle with the money. The man did not want help, and they did not call 911 at the time.

Robbery

On September 18 at 10:15 a.m. near 6200 Greenbelt Road, a woman was inside a bank depositing cash into the ATM, when someone reached from behind and took the money. She turned and tried to take it back, but the thief pushed her down and ran away.

On September 22 at 10:50 a.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, two men walked up to a man walking toward the 7-Eleven and hit him in the face and he began bleeding. They fled, and the man was taken to the hospital.

Accident with Injuries

On September 19 at 10:39 a.m. near Cherrywood Lane and Ivy Lane, a driver accelerated erratically, failed to stop at the stop sign, sped toward the intersection, and struck a Greenbelt Parking Enforcement vehicle. The speeding vehicle's passenger and the struck vehicle's driver were injured and taken to the hospital for medical treatment. The speeding driver fled on foot, but was caught and taken into custody.

Indecent Exposure

On September 24 at 9:38 a.m. near 6100 Cherrywood Lane, a woman walking on Cherrywood Lane saw a man urinating behind the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. He was wearing a black top and tan pants, and when she got closer she saw his genitals. The two then continued past each other, and she called to report the incident. Officers found and identified the man, who said he was using the brush in the area to relieve his bladder, and while doing so someone had walked past him and may have seen his penis exposed. He was taken into custody and issued a criminal citation for indecent exposure.

Buried Handgun Found

On September 23 near 200

Lastner Lane, a man was working in his garden, when his garden tool hit a metallic object which turned out to be a handgun. The serial number revealed the registered owner, and the gun had not been reported stolen or lost. The firearm was retained by Greenbelt Police for safe keeping.

Fraud

On September 18 near 5700 Cherrywood Lane, money was stolen from a bank account using a credit card; the bank is investigating.

On September 19 near 7300 Mandan Road, a woman received a text message on her cell phone about the purchase of an iPad. When she contacted the number, she was told that someone was using her Social Security number, and that she needed to send money using prepaid cards to correct the issue. She purchased several prepaid cards using money from her bank account and sent the money over the phone.

On September 19 near 7200 Hanover Parkway, a business owner noticed unauthorized checks drawn from their business's bank.

Theft

On September 20 at 1:45 p.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a woman's family member saw an apparent maintenance man enter her residence while she was at work. She returned home and asked why he was there, but he argued and left. Jewelry had gone missing.

On September 20 at 2:23 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man eating at Beltway Plaza went to throw away his trash, and his phone and laptop were gone when he returned to the table.

On September 20 at 4:23 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an employee said a young male wearing a black hoodie came into the store and stole her backpack. Camera footage showed the suspect walk into the store and exit with the victim's backpack. He then fled on foot and left the mall.

On September 21 at 11:45 a.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, a store manager stated that a man stole a ready-to-eat chicken and ate it without paying for it. The man was identified, and the store asked for him to be removed, without pressing charges.

On September 23 at 3:27 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter was stopped, all merchandise was recovered and the person is now banned from the location.

On September 23 at 7:03 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter received a criminal citation and was banned from the property.

Vandalism

On September 21 near 7600 Hanover Parkway, a playground was damaged.

On September 22 near 6200 Springhill Drive, a maintenance worker at the Franklin Park Fitness Center said that someone broke three large windows and one smaller upper window in the back of the building. The event was captured by video and is under investigation.

Welfare Checks

On September 18 at 2:28 a.m. near 6900 Hanover Parkway, officers responded to check on the

welfare of two young women left stranded by someone they met online; the parents were contacted and picked them up.

On September 24 at 2:57 a.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, an officer conducted a welfare check on children left unattended in a residence. The children were found in good condition, and the parent returned to the residence. Child Protective Services was notified for follow-up.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Stolen vehicles included: September 18 near 6 Lakecrest Circle, a blue 2019 Subaru WRX STI (Md. 6FC0278); September 21 near 6100 Breezewood Drive, a red 2017 Hyundai (Md. 9FM6681); and September 24 near 6900 Hanover Parkway, a 2017 Cadillac CTS (Md. 1FF4160);

Possession of Stolen Vehicle

On September 21 at 1:36 p.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road, an officer observed a Hyundai Elantra driving aggressively, making abrupt lane changes, tailgating vehicles and crossing multiple lanes. When the vehicle stopped at a gas station, a registration check showed it was stolen. While the driver was inside the gas station, police cars pulled in and the driver fled on foot. Officers found him in the woods and took him into custody. A female passenger attempted to flee but was quickly apprehended. Both juvenile suspects were charged with possession of a stolen vehicle and released to their parents/guardians.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On September 18 near 7700 Cloister Place, a 2021 Toyota C-HR was found. On September 21 near 7750 Mandan Road, officers found three vehicles with damaged windows and ignitions, two stolen from Prince George's County and the third impounded: a 2019 Hyundai Sonata, a 2018 Hyundai Tucson and a 2019 Kia Forte. On September 23 near 15 Crescent Road, a Hyundai Elantra stolen in Prince George's County was found with a damaged window and ignition and a flat tire; the owner will be notified. On September 23 near 7300 Hanover Parkway, a 2011 Hyundai was found with a damaged window and ignition before being reported stolen, and the owner was notified.

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

Seven vehicles, including three Kias and two Hyundais, had damaged windows and ignition indicating attempted theft: September 18 near 7900 Lakecrest Drive, a 2013 Honda Civic; September 19 near 6900 Hanover Parkway, a Hyundai left running beside the road owned by someone from Waldorf; September 21 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a 2023 Kia Forte; September 23 near 400 Ridge Road, a 2016 Kia Sportage, and near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a 2020 Kia Forte; and September 24 near 7900 Mandan Road, a 2020 Hyundai Sonata.

On September 24 at 9:21 p.m. near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, a man was tampering with a 2010 Mercedes Benz S550. The owner shouted, and the tamperer got into a black Jeep SUV and drove away toward Kenilworth Avenue.

Vehicle Located

On September 22 near 9100 Springhill Lane, a 2017 Hyundai Ioniq was reported stolen but it was actually repossessed.

Theft from Auto

All four tires/rims were stolen from six vehicles: on September 18, a 2023 Toyota Rav4 (with a damaged windshield) near 9100 Springhill Lane and a 2023 Honda Accord near 9100 Edmonston Court; September 20, a 2005 Honda Element near 6500 Capitol Drive (with a damaged window) and a 2022 Toyota Corolla near 7800 Walker Drive; September 21, a 2023 Chevrolet sedan near 7800 Hanover Parkway; and September 24, a Honda Civic near 6300 Golden Triangle Drive.

Tags were stolen from two vehicles: a 2008 Honda CRV (Md. 3CF2235) on September 18 near 7500 Mandan Road and a 2020 Hyundai Santa Fe (Md. temporary tag T1506386) on September 21 near 6200 Breezewood Court. On September 22 near 10 Ridge Road, a disability placard was stolen from an unlocked vehicle. On September 20 near 9300 Edmonston Road, an unknown man in all black tried to remove tags from a vehicle, but the owner saw him and he fled in a gray Subaru mini-van with no plates.

On September 18 near 100 Hedgewood Drive, the catalytic converter was stolen from a 2007 Toyota Prius.

On September 21 near 170 Westway, an unlocked 2011 BMW X3 was rummaged through.

On September 22 near 7600 Mandan Road, a 2021 Chevrolet Express work van was broken into and power tools were stolen.

On September 22 near American Legion Drive and Lakecrest Drive, an unlocked 2007 Toyota Camry had money stolen.

On September 24 near 7800 Walker Drive, a 2017 Chevrolet van had a damaged window, and several items were missing including a TV, Nintendo Switch with four controllers, music equipment, camera and equipment, lights with stand and a brown leather bag. The owner had an AirTag in her bag which was pinging in Capitol Heights. An F250 pick up truck also had a damaged window and a duffel bag missing.

Vandalism to Auto

On September 18 near 5300 Stream Bank Lane, a 2014 Chevrolet Cruze had damaged windows. On September 21 near 9200 Edmonston Road, two work vehicles, a 2019 Nissan NV200 truck and a 2013 Ford Transit, had windows broken but nothing stolen. On September 22 near 5300 North Center Drive, multiple vehicles had windows broken but nothing stolen or rummaged through: a 2018 Jeep SUV, 2017 Hyundai SUV, 2018 Honda van, 2014 Jeep SUV, 2023 Dodge Charger, 2016 Chevrolet sedan and 2006 Toyota van. On September 23 near 9200 Edmonston Road, several vehicles had damaged windows; a Dodge Charger, Hyundai Kona and Dodge Durango.

Man Assaulted and Robbed Close to Greenbelt Library

On Monday morning, September 25, around 7 a.m., a resident was walking near the Greenbelt Library when, he says, two young Black males approached him, pushed him down to the ground and kicked him several times. One of the young men was allegedly holding a knife, though it was not used to injure the victim in the attack.

The two young men are described as wearing black hoodies and blue jeans, one with a heavy-set build and the other with a slim build. Both ran away toward

University Square after taking the victim's cellphone.

Following the attack, the victim went to the Aquatic & Fitness Center and told an employee he had just been robbed. Police arrived and searched the area for the attackers, and the victim was transported by ambulance to a nearby hospital to be treated for his injuries.

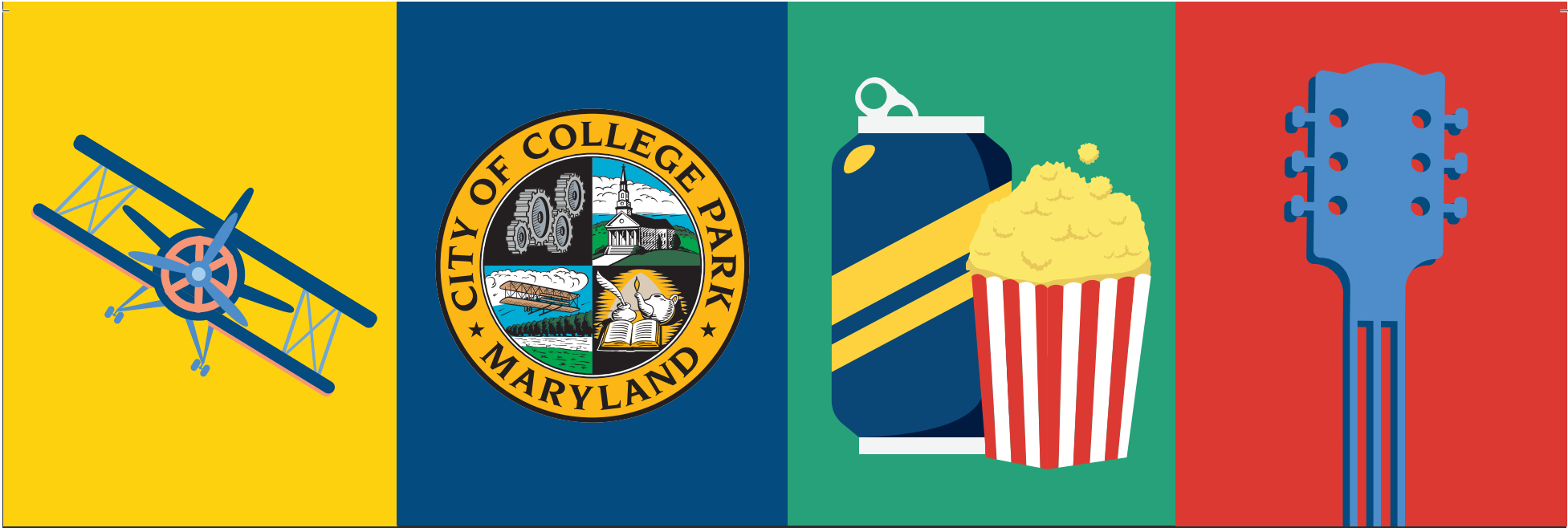
Anyone with information on the identity of these suspects is asked to get in touch with the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.



Greenbelt Library

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN





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WRIGHT continued from page 1

planning. Wright was among a small team of students that produced a monthly podcast to discuss current events from a teenage perspective. He edited and produced the podcast on various media platforms.

Wright is an entrepreneur – his business Always Seeking Knowledge (ASK), a clothing and apparel company – creates athletic clothing and apparel for people 15 to 35 years old. His clothing designs and ad enabled his selection to the Jim Henson program.

Wright’s second business is called Drippy Film and Media Productions for which he writes and produces short narrative films. In 2023 at the 11th Annual Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) Digital Film Festival he won first and second place for Best Micro-film and Best Special Effects for a feature film.

Wright’s filmmaking has already earned him a scholarship to the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), where he plans to join their Digital Cinema program. Upon admission, he’ll be



PHOTO COURTESY ROBERT WRIGHT

Wright competes in an outdoor cross-country race at Fort Washington Park.

awarded a \$76,000 scholarship (\$19,000 annually), providing he enrolls the fall after his graduation from high school. The award was for demonstrating outstanding achievement in art, design and creativity.

Wright plans to major in film production in college and is looking at both Bowie State and RIT. He likes science fiction and wants to own his own film studio one day. Wright envisions moving in the direction of Tyler Perry

and maybe Rod Sterling because he likes psychological films that make people think. He has completed MATLAB simulations, the Python coding program, Arduino projects, computer engineering coursework and has drafted a final research report as an apprentice in the Army Educational Outreach Program High School Apprenticeship at Texas Tech University in 2021.

Wright’s parents are his greatest influencers – his father is an engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and his mother is a physical chemist. He describes his father as a problem solver and his mother as creative. Both parents are entrepreneurial and so were Wright’s grandparents.

When asked how he became engaged in so many activities over the years, Wright said: “My parents put me in stuff, and I am not afraid to try stuff and fail at it. If I want to do something, I try it.”



PHOTO COURTESY ROBERT WRIGHT

News Review carrier Kalen Wright



PHOTO BY KATRINA BOVERMAN

Moon flowers bloom on Gardenway.



VOTE: MOSES N. SEKATAWA

— City Council —

For a SAFER and GREENER GREENBELT

This message has been authorized and paid for by the treasurer: Esther N. Sekatawa

Email: mosesgreenbelt@gmail.com

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PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors on

October 5, 2023

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

a) Approve Minutes of the Closed Meeting Held on August 3, 2023

b) Member Financial Matters

c) Member Complaint Matters

GHI Open Meeting – starts at 7:45 p.m. - open to members and visitors

a) Statement of a Closed Meeting Held on October 5, 2023

b) Approve Minutes of the Open Meeting Held on August 3, 2023

c) Approve the 2024 Reserve Study

d) Approve Agenda for the Town Hall Meeting on December 5, 2023

e) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on October 19, 2023

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtcu6srTwvH9NVcuUO7UapG_xV449g-NGx

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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Sports

Raiders Girls Soccer Team Gets One Win, One Washout

by Patrick Gleason

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School girls soccer team prepared for fall by coasting to another victory – this time an 8-0 triumph over the Suitland Rams – on September 21. Then, the weekend inundation cancelled what would have been the Raiders’ first arduous test: a match at Georgetown Day School. Therefore, Roosevelt enters its Thursday, September 28 matchup against the Bowie Bulldogs undefeated and thus far unchallenged, winning their first four games by a combined score of 35-1. Forwards Azaria Muhammad and Claudia van der Have each tallied two goals against Suitland, while Jada Savage, Alena Beckmann, Sadie Swart and Sofia Zuniga also scored. Sophomore Mahalet Dejenie added two assists on the afternoon for a Raider squad prepared to avenge last season’s playoff loss to the Bulldogs despite having earned an impressive regular season victory when the archrivals first met.

JV Team
Meanwhile, the junior varsity squad continues to perform well despite facing a more rigorous schedule. The Raiders dropped a tight matchup with Connelly School of the Holy Child last week. Despite threatening the Tiger defense much of the evening, the Tigers found the game’s lone goal. Freshman defenders Anna Grim and Bayleigh Galie helped neutralize Holy Child’s attack, while sophomore Zeala Tanto remained reliable in goal. Ariana Cruz and Cristina Blanco Arias proved dangerous for a Raider offense that challenged the Tiger backline all game, especially in an intense final 10 minutes. With pressure on the wings from Julia Visnic and Madison Walker, Cruz and Arias often found strong opportunities in the center. However, the Tiger defense clung to a shut-



Sophomore Sofia Zuniga maintains possession for an undefeated Roosevelt squad.



Senior Alicia Galban controls the pace as junior Arianna Casalini observes en route to the 8-0 Roosevelt victory over Suitland High School.

- Photos by Vanessa van der Have

out. Still, the Raiders remained attacking until the final whistle. Captained by sophomores Iris Gaycken and Addison Green, junior varsity continues on their challenging schedule by ending

the week with Bowie on September 28 and their rescheduled match with Georgetown Day on September 29. As the calendar turns to October and summer’s warmth slowly fades, the Raiders’ schedule compensates with its increasing intensity.

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EV Drivers Wanted

The Greenbelt Green Team seeks EV owners for its second EV Event at the back of Beltway Plaza by Target on Saturday, September 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

EV drivers certainly tell neighbors and friends about their EV experience, perhaps even explaining how the car works and how it’s charged. Want to inform a wider audience?

Join fellow EV owners inviting the general public to come and ask questions about the cost of purchase and ownership, real life range, cost of charging, types of chargers and more.

EV drivers should tell Steve Skolnik, Greenbelt Green Team EV Circle, at sdskolnik@gmail.com which all-battery electric EV or plug-in hybrid EV they’ll bring.

The Team will have posters and provide handouts to help educate EV owner wannabes.

Greenbelt Middle Hosts Hispanic Heritage Fest

Greenbelt Middle School invites the community to its annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, October 6. There will be a variety of activities, food and informational tables that will provide resources to the Greenbelt Middle School Hispanic community.

The event highlights the diaspora of Central America and other Hispanic communities of the world. The Greenbelt family and student population comes from countries such as Cuba, Guatemala, Peru, Venezuela and Mexico. Visit the Celebration to share in the collegial culture that makes Greenbelt Middle School vibrant and welcoming.



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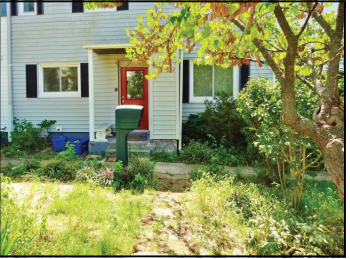


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Artful Afternoon Unites Arts and Culture Venues

by Nicole DeWald

The October 1 Artful Afternoon will be a banner day for arts and culture in historic Greenbelt. Guests of all ages are invited to tour the Community Center’s artist studios, participate in hands-on activities, see art exhibitions, enjoy live music and visit open houses at Greenbelt Access Television, the Greenbelt Museum, Old Greenbelt Theatre, Greenbelt Arts Center, New Deal Café and Greenbelt MakerSpace. All activities are free and open to the public.

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program will host an Art Studio Open House and Sale from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Community Center. Guests are invited to mingle and shop with the Center’s artists in residence and other local artists. Visitors also can tour the production studio of Greenbelt Access Television – home to Greenbelt Recreation’s animation and film-making classes – and enjoy an exhibition of sculptures by Artemis Herber in the Art Gallery.

Weather permitting, additional activities will take place on the Community Center’s front lawn. These include a ukulele serenade with Rachel Cross and students (1 to 2 p.m.) and a one-day ceramic sculpture exhibit – Vertical Visions – with the Greenbelt Pottery Group (1 to 4 p.m.). From 1 to 3 p.m., guests of all ages can participate in a free art activity, making miniature Vertical Visions



Artist-in-Residence Rachel Cross shows off some of her artwork.

sculptures, also with members of the Greenbelt Pottery Group. Advance registration is not required. A reception for the exhibit will take place from 3 to 4 p.m. In the event of rain, activities will move indoors to the center’s Ground Floor East space.

Across the street at 10-B Crescent Road, the Greenbelt Museum’s historic house and gift shop will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. Learn about the history of Greenbelt and enjoy the Museum’s collection of vintage Halloween decorations, from paper cutouts of scarecrows and skulls to lit-up plastic pumpkins from the 1960s and ’70s. Preregistration is not required.

Just a short walk away, guests can attend a joint open house with four of the organizations

that make Roosevelt Center a cultural hub: the Greenbelt Arts Center (black box community theater and lobby gallery, from 1 to 4 p.m.), Greenbelt Cinema (cinema and media lab, from 1 to 2 p.m.), the New Deal Café (live music and art shows, from 1 to 3 p.m.) and the Greenbelt MakerSpace (cooperative tool lending library, from 1 to 4 p.m.). This open house is coordinated with volunteer support from the Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board.

For information about the day’s events, visit bit.ly/44LArqF. City of Greenbelt arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Maryland State Arts Council. For more program information, visit greenbeltnmd.gov/arts.

Vertical Visions Pottery Show Included in Artful Afternoon

Members of the Greenbelt Pottery Group will share their Vertical Visions Exhibition on the front lawn of the Community Center on Sunday, October 1 from 1 to 4 p.m. as part of an Artful Afternoon in Greenbelt.

Inspired by ceramic hand building teacher Nadette Boughton, the potters have both individually and communally created garden-totem art structures out of clay that will be on display. Additionally, the Community Make and Take Artful Afternoon art project will be a form of Vertical Vision from 1 to 3 p.m. created by Greenbelt potter Judith Cayo-Cotter. A reception will be held from 3 to 4 p.m.

The Vertical Vision Community Totem with, from left, Lola Skolnik, Ivy Schram, Madeline Golde, Gina Mai Denn and Heidi Olson



Greenbelt Potters pose with a Vertical Vision. From left, Nancy Newton, Thomas Doyle, Jan Morrow, Chris Fortin, Mae Cahill, Lorraine Aldridge and Elisabeth Smela



Judith Cayo-Cotter and Lorraine Aldridge build the structure for a Vertical Vision.

New Children’s Theater Debuts Friday with Cat Kid Musical

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



Laugh Out Loud Stations brings a musical to Beltway Plaza.

Laugh Out Loud (LOL) Stations MEGA Fun Center is a small family business in a hummingous location, says owner Regina Bethea. It’s a “Walmart of fun,” with one of everything, she says. LOL Stations has been in existence since 2009 and in Greenbelt since 2011. It’s known primarily as a fun center that caters to birthday parties and carnival-style fun. “The goal is to be a family venue where families can come together and create happy memories”, says Bethea. This Friday LOL will debut its new performance theater for children, partnering with the entertainment company, Theatre Works USA, which travels state-to-state with professional actors and high caliber scenes to bring to life children’s story books. They plan to bring a new show to Greenbelt every month.

Bethea grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., and was introduced to theater by her older sister, Dorthy, who was in high school when Bethea was a pre-teen. Dorthy’s school was giving out free tickets and the sisters took the train to Broadway, seeing first The King and I then Hello Dolly, The Wiz and all kinds of shows for which they were able to get free tickets. “That’s how we got the passion for theater,” said Bethea. Dorthy was involved in LOL Stations with her sister and expanding to children’s theater was one of the projects she had visions of for their future. Sadly, Dorthy died of colon cancer last year, but this weekend the Dorthy C. Witter Performance Theatre at LOL Stations in Beltway Plaza will have its first opening night with Cat Kid Comic Club The Musical.

It’s exciting for Bethea, who just a couple of years ago

thought they’d be packing up their business and selling off what they could. “The governor shut us down with not even a day’s notice” in March 2020, she said, and they were closed for almost two years. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) saved the business and enabled them to redesign the space, adding a trampoline, expanding programs and turning the skate floor into a theater. “Thank God for the PPP Program,” says Bethea, “There would have been no way we would have opened. No way.” Now they’ve been reopened for a year and are expanding to children’s theater as well as planning additional future ventures, like a full-time childcare center. “Everything we’re doing is to support families,” says Bethea, who said there’s currently no childcare near Beltway Plaza and they’ve begun the permit process for that venture.

Grand Opening Show

This weekend’s show, Cat Kid Comic Club The Musical, is based on the comic book Cat Kid, by Dav Pilkey, who also wrote the popular Dog Man and Captain Underpants series. The performance is geared to children in elementary school grades, but also fun for the whole family, says Bethea. LOL offers some food options for dinner before the Friday show or lunch after the Saturday morning performance – mostly pizza, nuggets, mozzarella sticks, nachos, “what kids like ... fast casual,” says Bethea. She’s also offering discounts to stay and play at the Mega Fun Station after the Saturday show. More information about the theater and tickets for upcoming shows can be found at dcwshows.com.



Performers bring Cat Kid to life.